



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 2004 AGENDA

SUBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Public Hearing and Adoption of Performance Standards (Levels) for the Grade 5 California Standards Test (CST) in Science	

RECOMMENDATION

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) recommends that the State Board of Education (SBE) consider comments received during the regional public hearings and take action to adopt Performance Standards (Levels) for the Grade 5 California Standards Test (CST) in science.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- The SBE approved the development and administration of a grade 5 CST in science in December 2001 and approved the test blueprint in October 2002.
- The SBE adopted science performance standards (levels) for high school biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics in November 2001 and for integrated/coordinated science in January 2003.
- At its March 2004 meeting, pending public hearing, SBE approved recommendations for performance standards (levels) for the Grade 5 CST in science.
- At the direction of the SBE, two regional public hearings were convened with a third hearing to be held during the May Board meeting.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

California *Education Code* Section 60605 requires SBE to adopt statewide performance standards in core curriculum areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science, and science and to conduct regional hearings prior to the adoption of the performance standards (levels).

In February 2004, a performance standard (level) setting panel, comprised of Content Review Panel (CRP) members, community members, and additional grade 4 and grade 5 teachers was convened. The Panel's recommendation to the SBE was based on the cut scores they set for the 5 performance standards (levels) (far below basic, below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced) for the grade 5 science test.

However, the SSPI's recommendation, based on analyses conducted by the California Department of Education (CDE) and Educational Testing Service, differed from the panel's recommendation primarily for two reasons.

The first reason regards setting the cut score between Far Below Basic and Below Basic, which is based on the lowest score above chance performance. With the panel's recommendation, students could achieve Below Basic by guessing on every test question. The SSPI recommendation adjusts the Below Basic cut score to ameliorate this situation.

Secondly, given the panel's recommendation, the percentage of students that would score Advanced on the science test is substantially lower than the percentages of students that would score Advanced on the other elementary CSTs. The SSPI recommendation adjusts the cut score to be more in line with the other adopted CST cut scores.

The approved performance standards (levels), based on the SSPI's recommendation, were distributed for public review and comment at two regional public hearings held in April 2004. A third hearing is being held in conjunction with the May Board meeting.

California *Education Code* Section 60641 requires that individual results of each pupil tested in STAR be reported to the pupil's school and teacher and be reported in writing, to the pupil's parent or guardian. In 2004, after the administration and scoring of the grade 5 science tests, the performance standards (levels) will be reported to schools, teachers, parents, and students.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The cost incurred for completing the performance standard (level) setting is \$60,424. The cost for refining reports to include the science results to schools, teachers, and parents is \$75,000 for 2003-2004 and \$75,000 for 2004-2005. At their March meeting, the SBE approved the amendment to the ETS STAR contract contingent on the Department of Finance's approval of the contract amendment and the State Legislature's approval of Title VI funds expenditures.

ATTACHMENT

[Attachment 1:](#) Proposed Performance Standards (Levels) for Grade 5 California Standards Test in Science (1 page)

[Attachment 2:](#) Report of the Regional Public Hearings for the Proposed Performance Standards (Levels) for the Grade 5 California Standards Test in Science (1 page)

[Attachment 3:](#) Announcement of Three Regional Public Hearings (2 pages)

Proposed Performance Standards (Levels) for Grade 5 California Standards Test in Science

To be used in reporting the results of the Grade 5 California Standards Test in Science Spring 2004 and thereafter

Grade level	Far Below Basic			Below Basic			Basic			Proficient			Advanced		
	% Students	# Correct	% Items	% Students	# Correct	% Items	% Students	# Correct	% Items	% Students	# Correct	% Items	% Students	# Correct	% Items
5	12%	<17	<28%	21%	17	28%	43%	24	40%	21%	36	60%	3%	48	80%

Advanced	Advanced performance with respect to the California Science Content Standards
Proficient	Proficient performance with respect to the California Science Content Standards
Basic	Basic performance with respect to the California Science Content Standards
Below Basic	Below-basic performance with respect to the California Science Content Standards
Far Below Basic	Far-below-basic performance with respect to the California Science Content Standards

% Students	Percent of students statewide who would be placed at this performance standard (level) based on the results of the spring 2003 embedded census field test for grade 5 science
# Correct	Minimum number of correct responses needed to achieve this performance standard (level).
% Items	Minimum percent of correct responses needed to achieve this performance standard (level).

NOTE: The grade 5 California Standards Test in science has 60 items.

EXAMPLES OF HOW TO READ THIS CHART: Correct responses to fewer than 17 test items (or less than 28% correct responses) would be designated as Far Below Basic. Correct responses to at least 48 test items or (80% correct responses) would be designated as Advanced.

**Report of the Regional Public Hearings
for the Proposed Performance Standards (Levels)
for the Grade 5 California Standards Test in Science**

California Education Code Section 60605 requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to conduct regional public hearings prior to the adoption of performance standards (levels) for the purpose of giving parents and other members of the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed performance standards (levels).

Regional public hearings (videoconferences) were held at the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the Orange County Department of Education in April. No specific comments or suggestions, supportive or non-supportive, were received regarding the proposed cut scores (minimum number and percentage of correct responses) for the performance standards (levels). Questions and comments focused on the composition of the performance level setting panel, the process used to set cut scores, the similarity of the proposed cut scores to previously set cut scores for existing CSTs, and questions about other aspects of testing.

The third and final regional public hearing will be conducted Sacramento in conjunction with the SBE's regular May meeting.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1430 N Street, Room 5111
 Sacramento, California 95814
 (916) 319-0827



March 19, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THREE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

California State Board of Education

Proposed Performance Standards (Levels) For Grade 5 Science Test (Grade 5 Science California Standards Test)

To be used in reporting the results of the Grade 5 Science California Standards Test administered in Spring 2004 and thereafter

<p>Wednesday, April 7, 2004 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Bay Area/Coastal Region</p> <p>Videoconference Santa Clara County Office of Education Saratoga Room 1290 Ridder Park Drive San Jose, CA 95131 (408) 453-6500</p>	<p>Thursday, April 8, 2004 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. South/Inland Empire Region</p> <p>Videoconference Orange County Department of Education 200 Kalmus Drive Building D, Room 1002 Costa Mesa, CA 92628 (714) 966-4108</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 12, 2004 10:00 a.m. – As necessary North/Central Valley/Sierra Region</p> <p>California Department of Education 1430 N Street Room 1101 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 319-0827</p>
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To: County and District Superintendents
 Other Interested Parties

In 2001, California's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program reports, for the first time, included student performance results in English-language arts.

Performance standards (levels) relate exclusively to students' scores on the California Standards Tests, which are fully aligned to California's rigorous academic content standards. The designations for these performance standards (levels) are Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic.

For 2002 and thereafter, reporting of student achievement based on these performance standards (levels) was expanded to include the California Standards Tests in history-social science, mathematics and, in part, science. In addition, the performance standards (levels) in English-language arts were modified at grades four and seven to incorporate students' scores on the direct writing assessment conducted at those grades. For 2003 and thereafter, performance standards (levels) were reported on the

California Standards Tests in integrated science in high school.

The State Board of Education is now proposing to adopt performance standards (levels) for the new Grade 5 Science California Standards Test, which is being administered to students in grade five in 2004. The attachment displays the four “cut scores” (minimum number and percentage of correct responses) proposed to establish the performance standards (levels) for this test.

The regional public hearings are for the purpose of gathering comments from a cross-section of interested parties, including teachers, administrators, school board members and other local elected officials, business leaders, parents, guardians, and students.

- Comments and suggestions are sought on the proposed “cut scores” (minimum number and percentage of correct responses) on the respective tests that determine students’ performance standards (levels).

The regional public hearings at the Orange County Department of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education will be videoconferences (dates indicated above). State Board members (whose schedules permit them to attend) and State Board and Department of Education executive staff will be prepared to accept public comments and input on a continuous basis during the videoconferences. Individuals are not required to pre-arrange a specific time to present their comments. Oral comments will be accepted as individuals arrive. Some delays may occur if many individuals arrive at the same time, and patience in that event will be appreciated.

The third and final regional public hearing will be conducted in Sacramento (date noted above) in conjunction with the State Board’s regular May meeting. It will begin as close to 10:00 a.m. as possible, but will be only as long as necessary to hear from those wishing to testify orally at that time.

Individuals need not come to one of the regional public hearings to present their comments. The State Board would be pleased to receive comments by mail, e-mail, or fax.

California State Board of Education

BY MAIL	BY E-MAIL	BY FAX
1430 N Street, Room 5111 Sacramento, CA 95814	dfrankli@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0175

Please help us publicize these regional public hearings!